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INTELLIGENCER

The Shadowy Andrew Topping

A 37-YEAR-OLD MANHATTAN man whose background includes an alleged plot to kill Richard Nixon and a recent rape charge apparently met with a Defense Intelligence Agency official to discuss trying to overthrow Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

Andrew Topping disclosed the D.I.A. encounter from jail as the Manhattan district attorney's office tried to find out why federal charges against him were dismissed in 1972 after his arrest for allegedly putting out a contract on Nixon.

Calling himself a C.I.A. operative (in fact, police sources think he may once have been in army intelligence), he said he was asked by an intermediary for former Iranian premier Shah-

pur Bakhtiar to see if the United States would help oust Khomeini.

Topping told Jeff Stein, of Washington's weekly *City Paper*, that he suggested this to General Daniel Graham, an ex-head of the D.I.A., in 1980. Graham arranged for him to meet with Waldo Dubberstein, one of the D.I.A.'s top Mideast officials, Topping said.

"The whole thing sounded a little cockamamy, but you never can tell," Graham explained to *New York*, adding that he'd been unaware of the supposed Nixon incident. A D.I.A. source said Dubberstein met twice with Topping, then decided "not to get involved with this man." Topping's last known job was as a cabdriver.

BY SHARON CHURCHER